Remarks

In the application, claims 1 through 17 are pending. No claims currently stand allowed.

The Office Action dated December 30, 2003, has been carefully considered. The Office Action objects to claims 1 through 9 and 11, rejects claims 16 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 101, rejects claims 13 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by the publication "Location-Aware Mobile Applications Based on Directory Services" (Maass), rejects claims 1, 4 through 10, and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in obvious in light of Maass and U.S. Patent 6,255,944 ("Hayes"), rejects claims 2 and 3 as obvious in light of Maass, Hayes, and the Admitted Prior Art, rejects claims 11, 12, and 16 as obvious in light of Hayes and U.S. Patent Application Publication US 2003/0110293 A1 ("Friedman"), and rejects claim 17 as obvious in light of Friedman, Hayes, and U.S. Patent 6,477,576 ("Angwin").

This Amendment A corrects the objections noted by the Office Action. Claim 16 is amended to clarify the functional nature of its data structure.

The article by Henning Maass describes a database (or "LIS": location information server) that contains location information. A device, either on the same device as the database or remote from it, queries the database to obtain location information about an object of interest. Maass describes the database (in §§ 3, 5, 7, and 8) and a query protocol usable with the database (§§ 2 and 4 through 6). Maass also describes a few methods usable by the database to obtain an object's location information (§ 3.1: e.g., GPS, locatable tags).

Nowhere does Maass discuss, however, a device that discovers location information about its own network interfaces. Specifically, claim 1, as presently amended, states:

> Claim 1:   A method for providing information to an application running on a computing device, the method comprising *discovering information pertaining to a physical location of an interface on the computing device to a logical network*, reporting to the application the discovered physical location information, and notifying the application when the reported physical location information changes.

(Emphasis added.) Claim 10 has similar language. Claim 13, though different, also contains language referring to the device's own network interfaces:

Claim 13:   A method for an application running on a computing device to choose a configuration to use, the method comprising accessing a service provided by the computing device *to retrieve physical location information about an interface on the computing device attached to a network*, accessing a list that relates physical location to stored application configurations, and choosing a configuration that is related to the physical location of the network interface.

(Emphasis added.) This process has little in common with querying a database for information stored about objects of interest. Thus, Maass neither anticipates nor renders obvious claims 1, 10, and 13. As Maass does not discuss this general concept of a device finding location information about its own network interfaces, Maass, of course, also does not discuss the refinements to this method described in dependent claims 2 through 9, 14, and 15. As just one example, Maass' examples of location-finding techniques (§ 3.1) are often not appropriate to network interfaces (though they could work in some situations).

Friedman describes a system of gathering and reporting network traffic information. This information, along with geographic location information, may be useful in deciding how to route information through the networks. While Friedman mentions reporting names given to hosts in a network naming domain (paragraph [0044]), Friedman does not discuss *assigning names to the logical networks attached to a device*, nor does Friedman *provide physical location information about these network connections*, as required by claim 11:

Claim 11:   A method for providing information to an application on a computing device, the method comprising discovering logical networks to which the computing device is attached, *naming the logical networks in a manner that provides a mapping between the names given to the logical networks and the logical networks, discovering information about physical locations of interfaces on the computing device to the logical networks, providing the names and physical location information about the logical network interfaces to the application*, and notifying the application when the information provided to it changes.

(Emphasis added.) Because of its focus on reporting on existing information, Friedman neither anticipates nor renders obvious these features.

The Office Action's rejection of claim 16 on the basis of Friedman and Hayes is unclear. The Office Action does not point to where in Friedman or Hayes the elements of claim 16 can found. While applicants believe that the combination of Friedman and Hayes neither anticipates nor
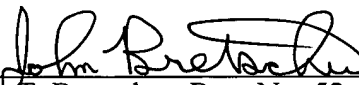
renders obvious claim 16, they are certainly willing to reconsider their opinion if this rejection could be clarified.

Thus, the invention as presently claimed moves beyond anything discussed or suggested by the cited art. The cited art neither anticipates nor renders obvious the presently pending independent claims 1, 10, 11, 13, and 16. The remaining pending claims are dependent upon these claims and are thus allowable for at least the reasons given above. Applicants request that the rejections be withdrawn and that all currently pending claims be allowed.

Conclusion

The application is considered in good and proper form for allowance, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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